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January 2, 2003

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TECH CENTER 1600/2900

Art Unit 1635

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Re: U.S. Utility Patent Application
Appl. No. 09/986,750; Filed: November 9, 2001
Title: **Method for Removing a Universal Linker from an Oligonucleotide**
Inventors: PIRES *et al.*
Our Ref: 0942.5080001/RWE/CJW

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for appropriate action are the following documents:

1. Fee Transmittal Form (PTO/SB/17);
2. Petition for Extension of Time Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(1);
3. Amendment and Reply Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111;
4. Second Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c);
5. Form PTO-1449 (citing **22** documents - **4** pages);
6. One copy of each of the **22** cited documents;
7. Return postcard; and

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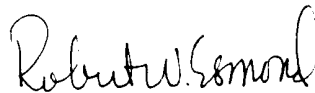
8. PTO-2038 Credit Card Payment Form for **\$1,200.00** to cover:
 \$ 90.00 Extra claims fee (37 C.F.R. 1.16)
 \$ 930.00 For Extension fees under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136
 \$ 180.00 For Information Disclosure Statement fees under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136.

It is respectfully requested that the attached postcard be stamped with the filing date of these documents and returned to our courier.

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036. If extensions of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 other than those otherwise provided for herewith are required to prevent abandonment of the present patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned, and any fees therefor are hereby authorized to be charged to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



Robert W. Esmond
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 32,893

RWE/CJW/rjv
Enclosures

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



In re application of:

Pires *et al.*

Appl. No. 09/986,750

Filed: November 9, 2001

For: **Method for Removing a Universal
Linker from an Oligonucleotide**

Confirmation No. 5957-1

Art Unit: 1635

Examiner: Schultz, J.

Atty. Docket: 0942.5080001/RWE/CJW

**Second Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement under 37
C.F.R. § 1.97(c)**Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Listed on accompanying Form PTO-1449 are documents that may be considered material to the examination of this application, in compliance with the duty of disclosure requirements of 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98. The numbering on this Second Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement is a continuation of the numbering in Applicants' First Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement filed on May 31, 2002, in connection with the above-captioned application. A copy of each document is also provided.

The Examiner is referred to the following related, co-pending patent application:

U.S. Patent Application No. 09/576,555, filed May 24, 2000, inventors Gebeyehu *et al.*, submitted herewith as Document **AR7**.

Where the publication date of a listed document does not provide a month of publication, the year of publication of the listed document is sufficiently earlier than the effective U.S. filing date and any foreign priority date so that the month of publication is not in issue. Applicants have listed publication dates on the attached PTO-1449 based on

should not be construed as an admission of the date indicated.


Applicants reserve the right to establish the patentability of the claimed invention over any of the information provided herewith, and/or to prove that this information may not be prior art, and/or to prove that this information may not be enabling for the teachings purportedly offered. This statement should not be construed as a representation that a search has been made, or that information more material to the examination of the present patent application does not exist.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date and after the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, but before the mailing date of a Final Rejection, or Notice of Allowance, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application. Attached is our credit card payment form in the amount of \$ 180.00 in payment of the fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).

Consideration of the cited documents and making the same of record in the prosecution of the above-identified application is respectfully requested. The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



Robert W. Esmond
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Date: Jan. 2, 2003

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